(e)the number of passengers who are yet to be traced; and

(f) what measures have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER- OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) In the derailment of 2301 Up Rajdhani Express on 9.9.2002 near the approach of Bridge Number 445, near Rafiganj on Gaya-Mughalsarai section, 107 persons, including 22 train duty Railway staff, lost their lives and 165 persons, including 21 Railway staff on train duty, were injured. However, 307 persons were safe in this accident.

(b) 551 passengers including 86 train duty staff, boarded the train at Howrah.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No passenger is untraceable. However, one body could not be identified.

(f) Does not arise.

Duty Hours of railway drivers

437. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the maximum hours of duty for railway drivers as per rule;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards news-item published in 'Dainik Jagran' dated 15th September, 2002 under the caption "Neend ki halat mein chalak ne Dehradoon Express ko Mugalsarai Pahunchaya";

(c) if so, what were the reasons for forcing drivers for doing more, than 10 hours duty; and

(d) who would be responsible for the mishap in such circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The working hours of drivers are

regulated in accordance with provisions contained in Chapter XIV of the Railways Act, 1989. The drivers on railways are classified as 'Continuous' and they are statutorily required to work for 54 hours per week on an average in a two weekly period of 14 days. But their rostered hours have been fixed as 52 hours per week on an average in two weeks.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Norms provide for working by the crew beyond the limits prescribed in exceptional exigencies of accidents, floods, agitation, equipment failures, etc.

The working of driver of 3009 Up on 14.9.2002 beyond prescribed duty hours was necessitation on account of accident of 2301 Up Rajdhani Express near Rafiganj on 9.9.2002 resulting in complete disruption to traffic, extra stoppages provided en-route and public agitation.

(d) In case of any accident, an inquiry is conducted and responsibility, if any, fixed at appropriate level.

CAG report on signalling and telecommunication

438. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has criticized Railways Department for not giving due importance to the modernisation of Signalling and Telecom; and

(b) if so, the reasons and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.The highlights from Chapter 4 of CAG Report No. 9A of 2002 (Railways) in this regard are given in the Statement. (See below)